



THANKSGIVING SUNDAY
NOVEMBER 22, 2020
11:00 AM

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF AKRON

OPEN & AFFIRMING WELCOME STATEMENT

First Congregational Church of Akron unconditionally affirms all people as we live out our call to follow Jesus Christ and his teaching of inclusive love.

We welcome people of every race, age, nationality, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, family circumstance, socio-economic status, physical and mental ability, or spiritual background.

We invite all who are seeking God's presence in their lives to participate fully in our church life, ministry, and leadership.

We strive to be a safe place, free from the fear of judgment, where wounds can heal, differences are cherished, and inclusivity is intentional.

We commit ourselves to the struggle against injustice, discrimination, violence, and hatred, in order to foster a world of peace and wholeness.

God loves you. Christ invites you. We embrace and celebrate you.

PRELUDE

Prelude on Tallis Canon

arr. Gordon Young

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Make a joyful noise, you children of God!

All: Let us give thanks for the dawning of this new day.

One: In your heart and with your mind,

All: let us declare that the Lord is good.

One: For God is our shepherd, faithful and just.

All: Therefore, we will sing songs of thanksgiving

One: in our hearts and in our minds,

All: for the Lord is good and worthy of our praise!

HYMN

Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

**Come, ye thankful people, come raise the song of harvest home;
All is safely gathered in, ere the winter storms begin;
God, our Maker, does provide for our wants to be supplied;
Come to God's temple come, raise the song of harvest home.**

**All the blessings of the field, all the stores the gardens yield,
All the fruits in full supply, ripened 'neath the summer sky,
All that spring with bounteous hand scatters o'er the smiling land,
All the liberal autumn pours from its rich o'er flowing stores.**

**These to thee, our God we owe, source whence all our blessings flow;
And for these our souls shall raise grateful vows and solemn praise.
Come, then thankful people, come, raise the song of harvest home;
Come to God's own temple, come, raise the song of harvest home.**

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

VOICES CELEBRATING

Now Thank We All Our God

**Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voices,
Wondrous things has done, in whom the world rejoices,
Who, from our mothers' arms, has blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.**

READING

The Crystal Gazer

Sara Teasdale

HYMN

The Lone, Wild Bird

Henry Richard McFadyen, Marty Haugen

**Each secret thought is known to you, the path I walk my whole life through,
My days, my deeds, my hopes, my fears, my deepest joys, my silent tears.**

**In secret depths you knit my frame, before my birth you spoke my name;
Within my soul, as close as breath, so near to me, in life, in death.**

**O search me, God, my heart reveal, renew my life, my spirit heal;
For I am yours, I rest in you. Great Spirit, come, rest in me too.**

READING

America, I Sing You Back

Allison Adelle Hedge Coke

SONG

Canticle of Turning

Rory Cooney

**My soul cries out with a joyful shout that the God of my heart is great,
And my spirit sings of the wondrous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
You fixed your sight on your servant's plight, and my weakness you did not spurn,
So from east to west shall my name be blest. Could the world be about to turn?
My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn.**

**Though the nations rage from age to age, we remember who holds us fast:
God's mercy must deliver us from the conqueror's crushing grasp.
This saving word that our forebears heard is the promise which holds us bound,
'Til the spear and rod can be crushed by God, who is turning the world around.
My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn.**

READING FROM THE PSALMS

Psalm 2

Why do the nations conspire, and the peoples plot in vain?

The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against God and God's anointed, saying, "Let us burst their bonds asunder, and cast their cords from us."

God who sits in the heavens laughs and has them in derision.

Then God will speak to them in anger, and terrify them in fury, saying, "I have set my king on Zion, my holy hill."

I will tell of the decree of God: He said to me, "You are my child; today I have begotten you. Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage, and the ends of the earth your possession. You shall break them with a rod of iron, and dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel."

Now therefore, O kings, be wise; be warned, O rulers of the earth.

Serve God with awe, with trembling kiss God's feet, or God will be angry, and you will perish in the way; for God's wrath is quickly kindled. Happy are all who take refuge in God.

ANTHEM

For All the Blessings of the Year

Lloyd Larson

INVITATION TO PRAYER

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER (*please use the language most familiar to you*)

**Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts,
as we forgive our debtors.**

And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

On the way to Jerusalem, Jesus was going through the region between Samaria and Galilee. As he entered a village, ten lepers approached him. Keeping their distance, they called out, saying, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!"

When he saw them, he said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went, they were made clean. Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice. He prostrated himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him. And he was a Samaritan.

Then Jesus asked, "Were not ten made clean? But the other nine, where are they? Was none of them found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" Then he said to him, "Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well."

SERMON

Thankfulness & Faithfulness

ANTHEM

Praise Him

Bob Burroughs

READING

Home

Bruce Weigl

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing

arr. Diane Bish

Thank you for joining this worship service!

*Please visit www.akronfcc.org/donate to support
the vital and ongoing ministries and missions of First Church
or mail your donation to 292 East Market Street, Akron OH 44308.*

LEADING WORSHIP TODAY

Rev. Nanette Pitt, Senior Minister

Rev. Antigoné Lowery, Associate Minister

Christine and Ruth Ann Allison, Lay Leaders

Julie Lehman, Choir Director and Organist

Amanda-Joyce Abbott, Tim Borham, Nicholas Campagna, and Stephanie Corbin, Instrumentalists and Vocalists